

By the Lord Deputie and Councill.




Hereas the Kings most excellent Maiestie, by his Highnes letters Pattents vnder the great seale of England, bearing date the xxv. day of Iuly, in the fift yeere of his Highnes raigne of England France and Ireland; did giue and grant to *Iohn Lo: Stanhope* of Harrington, one of the Lords of his Maiesties most honorable Priuie Councill of England, the office of Maister of his Maiesties Posts, aswell within the Realme of England, as in whatsoeuer parts beyond the Seas, being within his Maiesties Dominions; To haue and to hold to the said *Iohn Lo: Stanhope* by himselfe, or his sufficient Deputie or Deputies during his Naturall life: And also whereas his Maiestie by his Proclamation or Edict, bearing date at his Mannour of Greenwich, the fifteenth day of May in the seauenth yeere of his Highnes raigne of great Brittain, France and Ireland, hath (among other things therein contained) signified his royall pleasure, that publique knowledge should be giuen to all Merchants, both Strangers and all others; That neither they nor any for them, should thereafter take vpon them openly, or vnderhand, to imploy any disauowed person in the carriage of their letters, but to vse such only as should be lawfully appointed for that seruice: And commanding all his Maiesties officers to make diligent search of all Males, Bougets, and other carriages of all disauowed Curriers, Messengers, and suspected persons, comming in, or going out with Packets or Letters: And all such so disauowed to apprehend and stay, and them to keepe in safe custody, vntill by view of their writings sent to his Maiesties Priuie Councill, it be seene and aduised what should be further done with them.

And whereas the said *Lord Stanhope* hath resolved, by vertue of his said Letters Pattents, no longer to permit such foot Posts, or persons not auowed by him or his assignes in this Kingdom, as haue formerly sometime bin vsed, but to establish a course, and a person of purpose for that seruice, who is to receiue, perceau, and take all such rewards, profits, commodities, and emoluments, as are or ought to be taken for, or in respect of the doing, executing, or performing thereof: We hauing duly considered of his Maiesties pleasure declared, aswell in and by the said Letters Pattents, as by his Maiesties said Edict or Proclamation, and finding it very conuenient for the seruice heere, that Packets and Letters, aswell from Vs and the Councill, as from Merchants and others into England, should rather be committed to some speciall person, well knowne and chosen for that purpose, who may alwayes be answerable for what he receaueth, then to any meane foote Post or foote Posts, who if they faile in their duty, may be peraduenture no more heard of; Doe therefore not only heereby expressly forbid all such disauowed foote Posts; But doe charge and commande all persons whatsoever, aswell Merchants as others, that they doe not heereafter send or conuey, or cause to be sent or conueyed out of this Kingdome, any Packets or Letters, or other dispatches, by any of those disauowed Messengers, Curriers, or foote Posts, but therein to vse *Melchior Van Pelkem* resident in this Cittie, as Postmaister of this Kingdome, as we our selues intend to doe heereafter vpon fit occasions. And if any such foote Post, or disauowed person or persons (notwithstanding this our Proclamation) shall presume to transport Packets, Letters, Bougets, or Males; We doe charge his Maiesties officers to apprehend them, and to make seizure of their said Letters, Bougets or Males, and bring them to vs the Lord Deputy, or to one of his Maiesties principall *Secretaries*, that further consideration may be taken, because such disauowed persons, may (peraduenture) be vsed as instruments to export, or import Letters that may concerne matter of preiudice to the State. And if at any time heereafter it shall seeme conuenient, that the like course for conueiance of Letters, be established in any other remote Port or Ports of this Kingdome; We thinke it fit that we the Lord Deputy and Councill be first made acquainted therewith, and no person to be deputed or assigned to that purpose, in any Port or part without our priuity and approbation; Straitly charging and commanding all his Maiesties officers and louing subjects, to be from time to time aiding and assisting to the said *Melchior* for the better execution of the trust reposed in him, and accomplishment of his Maiesties pleasure signified by his Highnes said generall Edict, or Proclamation.

Giuen at his Maiesties Castle of *Dublin* the ninth day of February 1618. in the sixteenth yeere of his Highnes Raigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the two and fiftieth.

Armaghe. Thumund. Brabazon. Clea. Cliburt. Arthur Sauage. Garret Moore. Henry Docwra.
William Iones. William Methwold. Dud: Norton.

God saue the King.

 Imprinted at London by Bonham Norton, and
Iohn Bill, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.
ANNO. M.DG. XVIII.